

RESOLUTION NUMBER 297
COLONEL CLIFTON W. GATES

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that one of the region's most respected and admired prominent civic and business leader, Colonel Clifton W. Gates, passed on December 12, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Gates was born in Moscow, Arkansas on August 13, 1923 and his family moved to St. Louis during his youth. He married St. Louisan, Harriet Craddock and on June 14, 2007, the couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary;

WHEREAS, Colonel Gates is one of the region's most respected and admired African-American entrepreneurs, business and civic leaders. He was an exceptional role model and inspiration to young minorities and people of all ethnic backgrounds, especially emphasizing that anything could be achieved through hard work and determination according to his nephew, Michael McMillan, License Collector of the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Gates was the first African-American to be named as a member of the St. Louis City Board of Police Commissioners. In 1959, he became president and chief executive officer of Gates Realty Investment Company, his own firm, and later began the National Assurance Agency. In 1966, Missouri Governor Warren E. Hearnes appointed Clifton W. Gates, a colonel of the police board, and he was reappointed in 1970 for a second four-year term. He also held leadership roles in Mid-Central Mortgage and Metro-Cable-Installed Cable. He was a co-founder and chairman emeritus for Gateway National Bank, the first black-owned and operated bank in the state of Missouri which opened in 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Colonel Gates founded Lismark Distributing Company which made the *Black Enterprise Magazine's* list of the nation's largest black-owned business. He became the first "non-beer" person to win a Miller distributorship; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Gates served on countless professional and civil boards. He was board president of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis in 1968. He was director of the Missouri State Chamber of Commerce and of the Better Business Bureau. He was on the boards of the St. Louis Municipal Opera, Forest Park Forever, St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Housing Authority and St. Louis Ambassadors. Colonel Gates also served as a City Commissioner on the St. Louis Airport Authority, and board vice president of the Boy Scouts of Greater St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Gates received hundreds of honors and awards during his lifetime: Distributor of the Year and regional Distributor of the year distinctions in 1987 from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Management Award in 1967 from the Labor and Management Committee, the Public Service

Award in 1967 from the *St. Louis Argus*, and an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Business Administration from Harris Stowe State University; and

***WHEREAS*, Colonel Gates leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Harriett Gates; daughter Lisa Gates Norwood; son, Mark Gates; granddaughter, Talor Norwood; son-in-law, Ken Norwood; and many grand nieces, nephews and cousins.**

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that, on behalf of the St. Louis community, we pause to remember the many contributions of Colonel Clifton W. Gates to the citizens of the City of St. Louis, and we join with his family and many friends in expressing our sorrow at his passing, and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy for presentation to the family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.**

Introduced on the 14th day of December, 2007 by:

**Hon. Marlene Davis, 19th Ward
Hon. Charles Quincy Troupe, 1st Ward
Hon. Dionne Flowers, 2nd Ward
Hon. Freeman Bosley, Sr., 3rd Ward
Hon. Sam Moore, 4th Ward
Hon. April Ford-Griffin, 5th Ward
Hon. Kaci Starr Triplett, 6th Ward
Hon. Phyllis Young, 7th Ward
Hon. Stephen Conway, 8th Ward
Hon. Kenneth Ortmann, 9th Ward
Hon. Joseph Vollmer, 10th Ward
Hon. Matt Villa, 11th Ward
Hon. Fred Heitert, 12th Ward
Hon. Alfred Wessels, 13th Ward
Hon. Stephen Gregali, 14th Ward
Hon. Lewis Reed, President, Board of Aldermen**

**Hon. Jennifer Flowers, 15th Ward
Hon. Donna Baringer, 16th Ward
Hon. Joseph D. Roddy, 17th Ward
Hon. Terry Kennedy, 18th Ward

Hon. Craig Schmid, 20th Ward
Hon. Bennice Jones King, 21st Ward
Hon. Jeffrey L. Boyd, 22nd Ward
Hon. Kathleen Hanrahan, 23rd Ward
Hon. William Waterhouse, 24th Ward
Hon. Dorothy Kirner, 25th Ward
Hon. Frank Williamson, 26th Ward
Hon. Gregory J. Carter, 27th Ward
Hon. Lyda Krewson, 28th Ward**

Adopted this the 14th day of December, 2007 as attested by:

**Denise Watson-Wesley Coleman
Clerk, Board of Aldermen**

**Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen**